

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 4 and 5, amend the headings as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical field FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to an anti-skid system for vehicle wheels, in particular a system with radial support elements, which is intended to be placed on the wheel of a vehicle and positioned automatically on the ~~tyre~~ tire upon the first revolutions during movement of the vehicle. The invention also relates to a device for fixing this system, apt to be clamped onto a bolt of the wheel rim.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The bush is composed of a jaw-like arrangement which can be clamped onto the bolt by screwing a liner onto a deformable internal body. The bush is fixed onto the bolt of the rim by way of a preliminary operation before mounting the whole anti-skid system onto the wheel. Since, however, this operation must be performed with the aid of a tool and is somewhat difficult, normally it is performed at the start of the winter season and the bush is then left for a long period of time mounted on the vehicle rim, with the drawbacks which can be imagined. Following this operation, at need (for example in the

case of snow on the road), the motorist must attach to the bush the remaining portion of the anti-skid system, which is that intended to provide the ~~tyre~~ tire with adequate grip to the slippery road surface.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Moreover, some users may encounter difficulties at the time of mounting the actual anti-skid system onto the bush previously fastened to the bolt. In fact, with one hand it is required to keep the anti-skid system positioned and pressed against the ~~tyre~~ tire of the wheel while, at the same time, with the other hand a coupling lever or cotter pin must be engaged with the bush already mounted on the bolt and situated behind the radial support elements.--

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 29, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Cancel the heading appearing at page 3, line 8:

--~~SUMMERY OF THE INVENTION~~--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The abovementioned objects are achieved, according to the invention, by an anti-skid system, ~~the main features of which are described in the accompanying claims~~.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As can be seen in the cross-section of Fig. 1, a vehicle wheel comprises a ~~tyre~~ tire 11 and a rim 12 provided with fixing bolts 13 which connect the rim to the axle of the vehicle. A constraining assembly 14, which will be described in greater detail below, is mounted in a removable manner on one of the bolts 13 of the wheel.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The constraining assembly 14 comprises a clamping element 15 which is intended to clamp the bolt 13 and from which there extends a threaded shank 16 which passes through a circular collar 17 supporting a coupler lever or rod 18. The coupler rod 18 is arranged eccentrically on the collar 17 and extends towards the ~~centre~~ center of the wheel, extending also a certain distance beyond it. The clamping element 15 is fastened to and removed from the bolt 13 by means of an operating member 19, such as a rotating knob, operation of which will be illustrated in detail further below.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Moreover, on the portion directed towards ~~centre~~ the center of the wheel, the rod 18 carries on a bracket 38, which is also free to slide longitudinally on the rod 18 and to which the

end of a non-extendable tensioning member, for example the chain 30 shown in the figures, is firmly attached.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The arms 21 and 22 are preferably formed by resilient, metal, laminar strips and are mounted rotatably at their ~~entre~~ center on a central connecting body 26 which may be made of metal or sufficiently rigid plastic material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The arms have the singular shape clearly shown in Fig. 1, namely comprising an elbow portion which is intended to be arranged in contact with the rim 12 when the system is tensioned making use of the inherent elasticity of the said arms.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Then, in a conventional manner, the remaining portion of the anti-skid system is brought up to the wheel, causing the actual snow-chain together with the associated gripping elements to hug the ~~tyre~~ tire as closely as possible. During this operation, the chain 30 remains loose. At this point pressure is applied to the connecting body 26, moving it closer to the rim and tensioning the arms 21, 22; once the desired position has been reached, the chain 30 is taken up and tensioned and folded

back along one of the arms, inserting the connecting link into one of the grooves 31-34 of the body 26 so as to lock it in position. In order to prevent the remaining free portion of the chain from banging during the rolling movement of the wheel, the end of the chain provided with the rubber part 35 is fastened to the hook 36.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Finally, it is possible to start again with the vehicle, allowing the anti-skid system to fit properly around the tyre tire owing the elastic return force which is constantly exerted by the arms 21, 22 which are under tension.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--When it is required to remove the anti-skid system, it is sufficient to release the chain 30 by extracting it from the groove 31 and exerting a pulling force on the top part of the chain adhering to the tyre tire, thereby freeing the top and side areas of the chain. Then the vehicle need be moved forward one half revolution of the wheel in order to be able to remove the system and place it back into its container.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The bell-shaped element 50 houses internally a sleeve 52 provided with a series of petals (fingers) 52a able to close

together, clamping in the middle the head of a bolt 13 or 14. Each petal (finger) 52a has an inclined external surface intended to complementary mate with the internal chamfered surface 51 of the bell-shaped element 50. Owing to this design, the clamping element 15 is able to clamp the bolt 13 as the engaging action between the sleeve 52 and the bell-shaped element 51 increases (namely as the sleeve moves in the opposite direction to the arrows shown in Fig. 6A).--